

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

In the present amendment, claims 1 – 14 are amended and claim 15 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 – 14 are now pending in the application.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for minor informalities. In the present amendment, the Abstract is amended to obviate this objection. No new matter is added. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 101

Under 35 U.S.C. 101 the Office Action rejects claims 1 – 15 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In the present amendment, claims 1 – 14 are amended to obviate this rejection. Applicants submit that the claimed invention as recited in claims 1 – 14 is directed to a computer program product having program code encoded in a computer readable medium, and therefore is directed to statutory subject matter. No new matter is added. Claim 15 is cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112

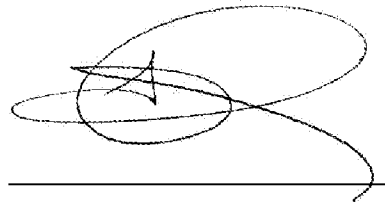
Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the Office Action rejects claims 1 – 15, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention; and under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph, the Office Action also rejects claim 14 as attempting to define a product (i.e., machine or apparatus) entirely by virtue of its function, in the absence of any recited structure.

In the present amendment, claims 1 and 14 are amended to obviate this rejection. Applicants submit that the amended claim 1 is definite and the amended claim 14 contains structures because it recites a computer program product having program code encoded in a computer readable medium. No new matter is added. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' and 'W' intertwined, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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